

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is courteously solicited.

Each of the independent claims 1, 5, 14, 19, 20 and 21 have been amended so as to set forth that the rotating unit consists of a transparent disk member having a vertical axis and rotates in a plane perpendicular to the vertical axis of the disk member. In addition, independent claims 1 and 19 have been further amended so as to include the recitation of a pulling body supply means for supplying the rolling bodies from the central portion of the rotating unit to the surface. The foregoing recitation with regard to the rolling body supply means was claimed in original independent claims 5, 14, 20 and 21. It is respectfully submitted for the reasons set forth hereinbelow that all of the claims of the instant application patentably define over the art of record.

With regard to the rejection of the previously submitted claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 over U.S. patent 5,879,235, Applicants respectfully brings the following points to the Examiner's attention. It is submitted that the '235 reference does not disclose either "the rotating unit consists of a transparent disk member" or "the rolling body supply means" as claimed. In this regard, it is

respectively submitted that the Examiner's conclusion as set forth on Page 4, paragraph (n) is incorrect. The '235 patent does not disclose the claimed "rotating unit consisting of a transparent disk member". The '235 patent does disclose on column 4, lines 14 to 21, a radially inner side portion of an upper surface of an annular rotating disk 13 formed with pockets 15 by partition plates 14 arranged in the circumferential direction and on the outside of each pocket 15 is fitted a number plate 16 where the number plate 16 is made of a semitransparent material. It is respectfully submitted that this specific teaching in the '235 patent does not suggest or render obvious the claimed rotating unit as now set forth in the independent claims. In addition, it is believed that the independent claims are patentable for a further reason. Each of the independent claims contains the limitation to a roller body supply means which supplies rolling bodies from the central portion of the rotating unit to the surface of the rotating unit. As noted above, the rotating unit is said to consist of a transparent disk member. None of the references cited and applied by the Examiner suggest this combination as now set forth in the independent claims. The particular advantageous effect derived from this construction is specifically set forth on page 8, lines 18-25 of the

instant specification. The secondary reference to Harris as well as the tertiary reference to Miller fails to show the foregoing structure. The Harris invention has a series of tracks arranged at different levels (see column 1, lines 29 and 30). The Miller patent discloses that the rolling bodies do not move outwardly from the rotating unit. In the Rothen disclosure, the gameboard (which corresponds to our rotating unit) does not rotate.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as presently pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case,  
it is respectfully requested that they be charged to  
Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

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on November 26, 2002  
(Date of Deposit)  
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Name and Reg. No. of Attorney  
Rachel Piscitelli  
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Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made to claims



1. (Amended) A number drawing apparatus, comprising:  
a rotating unit having a surface which rolls rolling bodies  
supplied thereon[and;], wherein the rotating unit consists of a  
transparent disk member having a vertical axis, and rotates in a  
plane perpendicular to the vertical axis of the disk member;  
rolling-body-supply means for supplying the rolling bodies  
from the central portion of said rotating unit to the surface;  
and

driving means for rotating said rotating unit in a fixed  
plane so that the supplied rolling bodies move outwardly from  
said rotating unit;

wherein information specified by the outward movement of  
each of the supplied rolling bodies is used as the result of a  
draw of numbers.

5. (Amended) A number drawing apparatus, comprising:  
a rotating unit having a surface which rolls rolling bodies  
supplied thereon, wherein the rotating unit consists of a  
transparent disk member having a vertical axis, and rotates in a  
plane perpendicular to the vertical axis of the disk member;  
rolling-body-supply means for supplying the rolling bodies  
from the central portion of said rotating unit to the surface;

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driving means for rotating said rotating unit in a fixed plane so that each of the supplied rolling bodies randomly travel outwardly from a supplied position in a direction toward the periphery of said rotating unit; and

a plurality of catching units provided along the periphery of said rotating unit, the catching units each having a unique symbol assigned thereto;

wherein the result of a draw of numbers is specified by the symbol assigned to the catching unit in which the moving rolling body is caught.

14. (Amended) A number drawing apparatus, comprising:  
a rotating unit having a surface which rolls rolling bodies in which each attitude of the rolling bodies or each position at which the rolling bodies stop specifies a unique symbol, wherein the rotating unit consists of a transparent disk member having a vertical axis, and rotates in a plane perpendicular to the vertical axis of the disk member;

rolling-body-supply means for supplying the rolling bodies from the central portion of the rotating unit to the surface;  
and

driving means for rotating the rotating unit so that each of the supplied rolling bodies randomly travel outwardly for a

supplied position in a direction toward the periphery of the rotating unit;

wherein symbols specified by the moving rolling bodies when the bodies have stopped are used as the results of a draw of numbers.

19. (Amended) A game machine including a number drawing apparatus and providing a game player with a game prize in accordance with the result of a draw of numbers by the number drawing apparatus,

the number drawing apparatus comprising:

a rotating unit having a surface which rolls rolling bodies supplied thereon, wherein the rotating unit consists of a transparent disk member having a vertical axis, and rotates in a plane perpendicular to the vertical axis of the disk member;

[and]

rolling-body-supply means for supplying the rolling bodies from the central portion of said rotating unit to the surface;  
and

driving means for rotating the rotating unit in a fixed plane so that the supplied rolling bodies move outwardly from the rotating unit;

wherein information specified by the outward movement of each of the supplied rolling bodies is used as the result of a draw of numbers.

20. (Amended) A game machine including a number drawing apparatus and providing a game player with a game prize in accordance with the result of a draw of numbers by the number drawing apparatus,

the number drawing apparatus comprising:  
a rotating unit having a surface which rolls rolling bodies supplied thereon having a vertical axis, wherein the rotating unit consists of a transparent disk member, and rotates in a plane perpendicular to the vertical axis of the disk member;

rolling-body-supply means for supplying the rolling bodies from the central portion of the rotating unit to the surface;

driving means for rotating the rotating unit in a fixed plane so that each of the supplied rolling bodies randomly travel outwardly from a supplied position in a direction toward the periphery of the rotating unit; and

a plurality of catching units provided along the periphery of the rotating unit, the catching units each having a unique symbol assigned thereto;

wherein the result of a draw of numbers is specified by the symbol assigned to the catching unit in which the moving rolling body is caught.

21. (Amended) A game machine including a number drawing apparatus and providing a game player with a game prize in accordance with the result of a draw of numbers by the number drawing apparatus,

the number drawing apparatus comprising:

a rotating unit having a surface which rolls rolling bodies in which each attitude of the rolling bodies or each position at which the rolling bodies stop specifies a unique symbol, wherein the rotating unit consists of a transparent disk member having a vertical axis, and rotates in a plane perpendicular to the vertical axis of the disk member;

rolling-body-supply means for supplying the rolling bodies from the central portion of the rotating unit to the surface; and

driving means for rotating the rotating unit so that each of the supplied rolling bodies randomly travel outwardly from a supplied position in a direction toward the periphery of the rotating unit;

wherein symbols specified by the moving rolling bodies when the bodies have stopped are used as the results of a draw of numbers.